AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1183 — WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1933 — FRANK MORRISON, Secretary — VOL. 23, NO. 41

Breathes there the man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,
"This is my own, my native land."—Sir Walter Scott.

Editorials

Millions in Trade Union Benefits

A striking illustration of one of the advantages of trade unions is revealed by the fact that during the calender year 1932 the unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and other recognized trade union organizations paid their members $51,448,348.73 in various forms of benefits to assist trade unionists and their families in meeting a number of exigencies which strike the workers with persistent repetition and through no fault of their own.

According to reports made to the American Federation of Labor for the year, the unions expended $19,970,556.86 in unemployment benefits, $17,674,-383.64 in death benefits, $6,148,302.12 for old age pensions, and $2,308,040.08 in sick benefits. Disability benefits totaled $4,006,890.68, and miscellaneous benefits $1,340,175.36.

These figures are admittedly incomplete due to the failure of a number of unions to report and to the fact that in some national and international unions the benefits are paid by the local unions whose officers quite frequently do not report the amount of their expenditures for this purpose.

The benefit funds are usually raised by assessments and dues from the members, and are emphatic examples of the altruistic spirit animating American trade unions, a spirit which leads millions of trade unionists to bring united collective action to the relief of their associates who are in distress.

Sales Tax Fallacy Again Exposed

The American Federation of Labor's declaration that the sales tax is designed to "soak the poor" received confirmation at a recent meeting of certain mayors of New York State who petitioned the Governor and Legislature to enact a drastic form of this method of taxation with the proviso that the receipts be given to the municipalities for the relief of those who own real estate.

Under the proposal the tax taken from every person in the community would be used to reduce the taxes levied upon real estate, who are the most able to support the Government and usually get the most benefits from it.

The sales tax is reprehensible. In the language of the American Federation of Labor it is an attempt to transfer taxation from those who are able to bear it to the masses of the people who are least able to bear it.

Wherever the sales tax appears it is nothing but a device to assist the well-to-do to evade their just contribution to the support of government. The action of the New York mayors proves this conclusively, and again shows that in essence it is a movement to "soak the poor" for the benefit of those in more prosperous circumstances.

NRA and Profits

Among the outstanding critics of the President's Recovery program are B. C: Forbes, editor of Forbes, a semi-monthly magazine for big business, and Thomas F. Woodlock, editorial writer on the Wall Street Journal. Their main tale of woe is that the NRA program emphasizes jobs and wages for the millions of unemployed as the first need of the country and relegates to a secondary position the need of profits for those who own and control industry.

Evidently these two gentlemen and their scattered associates who are attempting to scuttle Roosevelt's program do not read the current financial news with which every financial editor is familiar.

As evidence of the positive influence of the NRA on business prosperity, the following statement by Leslie Gould, financial editor of the New York Evening Journal, is instructive:

"While the ratio of corporations to show improved earnings in the third quarter of this year, as compared with the corresponding period in 1932, is better than three and one-half to one, six major lines of industry have so far turned in perfect scores. All of the companies so far to report had greater profits than a year ago. These industries are: Automobiles, motor car accessories, chemicals, electrical equipment, leather, and food. The last-named, by running them a close second are building materials and supplies, metals, including mining, motion pictures, oils, railroad equipment, coal and steel."

In addition to Mr. Gould's optimistic report on corporation earnings the following paragraph from an International News Service dispatch to the Washington Times of December 9 regarding the conversion of earnings into dividends should pull the blinkers from the eyes of croakers like Forbes and Woodlock:

"Stockholders in 69 American corporations will receive an increase of $55,691,540 in the income from their investments through larger dividend declarations by these companies during the past week, a survey revealed today. Forty-two companies have resumed or initiated dividends representing disbursements of $28,040,498 to stockholders. A group of 20 companies has declared dividends totaling $24,183,-639. In addition, nine other companies have increased regular rates net by $3,467,403 for the current payment."

With this record of constantly larger profits and bigger dividends, the journalistic representatives of big business should put the brakes on their attacks on the President's Recovery program.

LABOR REPRESENTATION ON ALL NRA AGENCIES ASKED BY AFL CONVENTION

Washington. — The action of the Labor Advisory Board of the National Recovery Administration, of which William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, is a member, in urging adequate labor representation on all NRA code authorities was an approval of the definite position taken by the 1933 convention of the A. F. of L.

After full consideration of the large interests which the workers have at all stake in the fair practice codes and their equitable administration, the convention declared:

"Labor representation in the drafting of code proposals, in every stage of hearings before the National Recovery Administration and in the enforcement and administrative agencies provided by the code, is essential to achieving the purposes of the National Recovery Act and to meeting the requirements of human justice," the convention declared.

In response to the convention's specific recommendations were:

1. That labor representation equal in number to employer representation be named to continuing, compliance and all other boards and committees of the NRA.

2. That labor representatives be named in all State and local NRA committees, including State and city investigating and compliance boards and committees.

Workers and the Employers Are Equally Represented on Regional Labor Boards

Washington.—The set up of the 17 Regional Labor Boards functioning under the National Labor Board in Labor disputes arising under the President's reemployment Agreement and the fair practice codes established by the National Recovery Administration, is reflective of a recommendation made by the 1933 convention of the American Federation of Labor, which decided that the boards must have "equal representation of labor and the employers and that care must be exercised to adequate labor representation."

The regional boards consist of from eight to 18 members, in nearly every instance divided equally between representatives of the employers and the workers with an impartial chairman and secretary.

The convention made its positive declaration after considering the Executive Council's report on the organization and function of the National Board, whose chairman is Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York, author of the National Recovery Act.

In the report, which was adopted by the convention as its own declaration, the Council declared that the main object of the Board is to hasten the end of the depression by using conciliation and arbitration to avoid strikes and lockouts arising under the fair practice codes established by authority of the National Recovery Act. The Council continued:

"The theory upon which the organization of the National Labor Board was founded is that it shall be composed of equal representatives of labor and industry, with an impartial chairman appointed by the President of the United States.

"The Executive Council understands that the National Labor Board has been established as a part of the permanent administrative machinery of the National Recovery Act.

"It will function continuously and will be available for the prompt settlement of industrial controversies which may arise and which cannot be settled directly between the representatives of employers and employes."

PRICE CUTTING DYERS WILL BE PROSECUTED

Washington.—The National Recovery Administration will cite approximately 100 cleaners and dyers to the Federal Trade Commission for prosecution for alleged violations of the price schedules set up under the code for the industry, it was announced here. The statement followed extensive hearings before the Recovery Administration on the matter of whether the existing rates should stand.

RAILROAD MUST END COMPANY UNION AID

Federal Coordinator Eastman Declares that Officials Who Continue Their Violation of the Railroad Act Will Be Rigorously Prosecuted by the Federal Government.

Washington.—Railroad officials who have persisted in their support of company unions for the last six months, despite the definite prohibition contained in the Emergency Transportation Act signed by the President on June 16, were warned by Joseph B. Eastman, Federal Coordinator of Transportation, that they must promptly cease this subversive activity, or be prosecuted by the Attorney General of the United States or the United States District Attorney in the locality where the railroad whose officers flout the law has its headquarters.

Following complaints from officers of railroad labor organizations that the company union provision of the Act was being violated by railroad executives, Mr. Eastman made an investigation which showed that many railroad officials were openly and flagrantly ignoring the plain mandate of the law.

Seven Law Violations Charged

According to Mr. Eastman's statement the officials were guilty of the following illegal activities:

1. Influencing and coercing employees with respect to membership in labor organizations and other labor representatives and interference with such organizations.

2. Coaching, reprimanding, threatening, penalising, and otherwise subjecting to persecution railroad employees who join a union and who legally solicit membership in such an organization.

3. Failure to advise employes by appropriate notice of their rights under the Railway Labor Act.

4. Refusal by railroads which have received signing of a contract or agreement to join or not to join a labor organization in order to notify their employes that such contracts have been discarded and are no longer binding.

Must Stop Financial Aid

5 Continued contributions to the financial support of company unions.

6. Refusal by railroads which have retained control over the constitution and by-laws of "any labor organization," which will of course means the company union, or whose officers or agents assist in the formation thereof, or employes, to withdraw from all such participation and support.

7. Continued subsidizing of company unions by extending them exclusive special privileges, not afforded other employes, such as group insurance or contributions to their funds.

All of these activities, Mr. Eastman declared, violate the labor section of the Emergency Transportation Act and must be discontinued forthwith.

He also suggested that railroads whose officials now audit the accounts and books of labor organizations or collect or assist in collecting dues and fees to discontinue these services.

N. Y. FIRE FIGHTERS GIVE TRIBUTE TO GREEN

A happy feature of the 1933 convention of the American Federation of Labor was the presentation by the president William Green of a handsome tie clasp on behalf of Local Union No. 94 of New York City, International Association of Fire Fighters. The presentation was made by Vincent J. Kane, president of Local Union No. 94 and vice president of the New York State Federation of Labor.

The gift was given to President Green in recognition of his work for the Fire Fighters in New York City and throughout the nation. In presenting the gift, Delegate Kane, who was introduced by President Baer of International Association of Fire Fighters, said that the Fire Fighters regarded President Green as the "leading man" in their organization.

He recalled that President Green had been unable to attend the annual entertainment and ball of the New York firemen last January, when the local had intended to give the tie clasp to Mr. Green, and said:

"I am delegated by my organization to say that we, the firemen of the State of New York, wish to make this small manifestation of the high regard we hold for you. I take this opportunity of fetching you and the entire membership of the convention."

In response, President Green thanked the Fire Fighters for the gift and said he was proud of the "splendid manner" they want to assure you, Brother Kane and Brother Baer," he said, "that the American Federation of Labor and myself will give you and your splendid organization a full measure of support. We shall do all that we can to advance and promote your interests."

GENERAL WORKERS UNION ADDS 30,000 MEMBERS

London, England.—The National Union of General and Municipal Workers increased its membership by 30,000 during the annual drive which this year, over 12,000 new members having joined during the September quarter, according to an announcement by the general council of the union. Dues paid increased 5,000 pounds over the June quarter, while the reserves were increased by 10,000 pounds and now stands at 542,000 pounds.

Will Thorne, secretary of the union, said the membership figures are "the strongest evidence that can extraordinary revival of trade unionism is taking place."

LABOR TO CONTINUE FIGHT TO CHANGE CAMP POLICIES

The 1932 convention of the American Federation of Labor pointed out that certain provisions in the Army Reorganization Act of 1920 and Civilian Conservation Corps were not favored by labor and added: "The expenditure of appropriated funds and the utilization of money appropriated for public buildings for the purpose of meeting the expenses incident to the establishment of these Conservation Camps. It is the intent and purpose of labor to continue to urge for higher payment and for the replacement of the funds for building purposes which were transferred for payment of expenses and compensation paid civilian Conservation Corps."

STRIKES CAUSED BY WORKERS' EFFORTS TO SECURE NRA RIGHTS

Deputy Administrator Rosenblatt Says Employers Who Flout Right to Organize and Chisel Wages Are Responsible for Labor Unrest.

Washington.—A survey of the strikes which affect thousands of wage earners reveals that most of the controversies are caused by the firm demand of the workers that the right to organize and bargain collectively, guaranteed by the National Recovery Act, shall not be nullified by subversive employers, coupled with the determination to secure an adequate minimum wage and to prevent employers from chiseling higher rates to the minimum basis.

This was the position taken before the 1933 convention of the American Federation of Labor by Sol Rosenblatt, Deputy Administrator of the NRA, in an address to the delegates, and the strike situation since the forepart of October demonstrates the truth of his analysis at that time.

"Minimum wages where a supply of men exceeds the demand for them, tend to become the maximum wages," Mr. Rosenblatt said. "Therefore, unless the minimum wages provide an adequate living wage for labor, we are bound to have strikes.

"This means in simple words that unless we not only pay labor a wage worthy of its hire but an adequate wage, we are preparing for industrial unrest and thereby to economic waste.

Union Wage Rate Justified

"What good can is accomplished by the pursuit of a good course of procedure in achieving the aim of the Act to put men to work and to keep them at work, if as we do so, the result is unbalanced by industrial unrest?

"This great American Federation of Labor represents those workers who by years of endeavor and collective bargaining, have achieved in their various occupations a fair prevailing scale.

"If that prevailing scale is taken to be an absolute wage and if the workers are working under such prevailing scale and that industry in which they are engaged is paying that prevailing scale, then it follows that that industry must endeavor and will continue to enjoy industrial peace.

Employers Force Maximum to Minimum

"In plain English if the organized workers, through their collective bargaining over a period of years have achieved a certain rate of pay which is now generally enforced, and if a lower minimum rate of pay is fixed, it is not enough to say that the intention of the minimum does not mean the fixation of a maximum, because, with so many men available to fill those positions, capital must necessarily feel that if it pays the minimum prescribed it is doing its duty, and the new men must feel that if they receive that minimum they are receiving an adequate wage.

"But the men who have been steadily and gainfully employed in such positions and who have been receiving by reason of their collective efforts a higher rate of wage, must feel that their employment depends upon whether their collective efforts are being torn down.

Preserve Union Standards

"Therefore, I say and submit to you that not only shall we fix a minimum wage which is adequate and which is a living wage, but we must also see to it that in fixing such minimum wage the standards which have been built up over a long period of years are not impaired or destroyed.

"Capital owes it duty to labor, to the public, and to itself, in order to assure itself of industrial peace. Labor owes to itself the protection of the results of its collective bargaining, and owes to the community its duty in preserving the fruits of its collective efforts not only for its organized members but also for its unorganized members, and for the new men who are rapidly entering into these fields of endeavor to be put to work.

"I am sure that neither the President nor General Johnson, nor any of our great leaders, desire to see the standards of organized labor lowered or brought down.

"I feel confident that if we are to have steady and constant buying of the finished products of men's labor, we must be afforded to impair the purchasing power of that very labor.

"If it is our ideal that not only shall no persons gainfully employed lose their employment but on the contrary more people be put to work, we must assure all of the workers that their standards of wages shall not be lowered by an inadequate minimum wage."

PHOENIX COLORED LABOR UNION GROWS RAPIDLY

Phoenix, Ariz.—Federal Labor Union No. 18962, composed of colored workers, recently organized here, has a membership of over 400 and is growing rapidly. The union, the first of its kind in Arizona, has affiliated with the United Labor Council. The wives of the members have organized a Woman's Union Label League to foster the union label on everything purchased and thus create a larger demand for union-made products with its consequent employment of trade unionists.

"LABOR-SAVING" MACHINE KILLS CARPENTERS' JOBS

Manchester, England.—The continuing conspiracy of industrial engineers and employers to deprive workers of the right to earn a decent living by substituting machinery for human labor is described in the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers' Monthly Journal which reports the introduction of a new machine for the preparation of rafters, involving a 45 degrees cut at each end, also two "housings" and a "birdsmouth" in each, which does the job at the rate of about 50 an hour compared with five an hour when done by hand.

The Woodworkers' Journal also calls attention to the determination of employers who own and control industry to absorb all the benefits of labor-displacing machinery for themselves by putting the spotlight on an advertisement of a new concrete mixer, which points out that one employer declared that "the saving in labor over hand screening" enabled him to "lay off half a dozen or more men as soon as the mixer is delivered."

Of course this Tory employer never thought of the justice of keeping the six men at work and reducing the hours of labor of all his employees.

14-YEAR LIMIT FOR CHILD LABOR FOUGHT IN ITALY

Rome, Italy.—Mussolini's autocratic dictatorship and the organized employers of Italy still hesitate to protect children of tender years from being turned into profits for the benefit of stockholders and individual employers nor regulate child labor, which nevertheless live on the fat of the land.

Although most employers in the United States are barred by fair competition codes under the NRA from employing children under 16 years of age, Mussolini and his Fascist cohorts still stick to lower age limits as essential for proper functioning of Italian capitalism. This reactionary policy is clearly illustrated by the child labor amendment raising the minimum age, at present 13 years, to 14 years as a general rule, recently considered by the Italian Permanent Committee on Labor Legislation.

Originally the proposal absolutely prohibited employers from employing children under 14 in industry. This reasonable limitation, two years below the 16-year limitation in the American fair competition codes was vigorously opposed by the Italian silk manufacturers, who held that exploitation of children was such an important element in the profitable operation of silk-mills, a big basis that they must oppose the reform.

A recent investigation showed that in 1931, out of every 100 work books issued to children 12 to 15 years old 20 per cent were for children of 12 years, 27 per cent for children of 13 years, and 32 per cent for children of 14 years. The silk manufacturers succeeded in keeping their grip on 32 per cent of the working children who are only 12 and 13 years of age.

EMPLOYMENT OF NEGRO ORGANIZERS STRESSED

Washington.—Employment of Negro labor organizers on a paid and volunteer basis if funds permit was considered by the 1933 American Federation of Labor convention and referred to the Federation's Executive Council.

The convention pointed out the importance of Negro workers in American industry and emphasizing the desirability of organizing the colored workers to strengthen the trade union movement.

Urging the appointment of Negro organizers and stressing the necessity of organizing the colored workers at this time of depression, A. Philip Randolph of the Sleeping Car Porters' Union said:

"I am pleading in behalf of the delegates from the South, especially in the Gulf States, where the Negro workers in the shipyards have been pitting the white and black workers against each other. This, of course, tends to weaken the forces of organized labor and disrupt the labor movement. It seems to me that it has been difficult for them to meet with the Negro workers and organize them, because many employers want some Negro organizers to assist them.

"The Negroes constitute a large section of the population of America, one which is growing in power and in a time when the great business interests of the country are fanatically opposed to the labor clauses of the NRA. They are going to employ every device a long period of years are not impaired or destroyed.

"Already they are saying there should be a differentiation between the black and white workers in industry. That is calculated to increase competition between the white and the black workers, and that will engender hostility and class feeling, and consequently you can readily see that it is important that organized labor remove from the hands of the employing class the weapon of race prejudice. That can only be done by going out and organizing the black workers in large numbers.

"I realize that among the Negro workers there is a new spirit; they are eager to come into the ranks of organized labor, but there still exists some barriers in the unions against the Negro workers, and I feel that these barriers will be broken down, for we are living in a time when all labor ought to be in the organization."

Delegate Frank Duffy of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America and chairman of the convention's Committee on Resolutions, said: "The committee reports favorably upon the resolution, but we refer it to the Executive Council with the hope that it can be put into effect if the cost will permit. We are in favor of organizing the colored workers—all workers, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled."

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PLAN FOR CCC CAMPS

Washington.—Some 300,000 men in the Civilian Conservation Corps will be given vocational training with a view to fitting them for careers while at the camps, Robert Fechner, Director of Emergency Conservation Work, announced. He said the plan had the approval of President Roosevelt. It will mean, also, the appointment of 1,448 education advisers.

Although it was not revealed what special connection military men have with vocational training, it was given out that "the Major Generals commanding the Corps areas will be charged with carrying out the program."

Railway Officials Skimp On Employes' Meal-Time

London, England.—The right of British railway officials to "economize" on the meal-time of permanent-way men is being challenged in the courts of two sections before the National Wages Board, the Union, N. U. R. and the Bradshaw.

Officials of the union declared the meal-time arrangements were so glaringly inadequate that in many instances platelayers had to eat their meals for their meals and were deprived of a reasonable period of their rostered "interval by the action of the company in abolishing the old "mess-room."

Company officials claimed the total absence from the site of the work was "inconvenient" and "involved delay." Consequently the companies imposed the new rule.

H. J. May, a member of the board, asked the representative of the companies if he didn't think that "the sale of harmony and smooth working in a mess like that, where the comfort and even the health of the men is involved, there should first be consultation with the union?"

The representative of the companies replied: "We do not think so."

Green Flays Company Union; Claims It Destroys Workers' Rights and Violates the NRA

A. F. of L. President Holds That Employer-Controlled Labor Groups Are Not Genuine Unions, and Describes Them As Schemes to Dominate the Economic Life of the Workers.

Washington.—Officials of the American Federation of Labor were greatly pleased with the announcement by Joseph B. Eastman, Federal Coordinator of Transportation, that the United States Government would prosecute railroad officials who persist in their violation of the labor section of the Emergency Transportation Act which outlaws the railroad company unions by prohibiting the railroads from maintaining them and influencing or coercing employes to join them.

It was pointed out that William Green, president of the A. F. of L. in his recent speech at Detroit, tore the company union into shreds before the large audience made up largely of automobile workers, specifically citing the Missouri Pacific Railroad's plan as a fair sample of these employer-organized and employer-controlled bodies conceived to attack the economic interests of working men and women.

Declaring that the company union is one of the methods used by employers to "deny the workers the free exercise of their right to join a union of their choice," Mr. Green said:

"I believe that was the intent and purpose of Congress, to outlaw company unions, when it said that no employer could be compelled to join a company union as a condition of employment. I believe Congress meant what it said.

"The management of a company cannot set up a company union for the workers without in some way, by suggestion or by intendo, requiring the employes, the timid employes at least, to believe that the company is becoming members of the company union set up. There is coercion in it from the beginning. The man who is hired knows that the management wants him to join a union he is afraid to say no and they have devious ways of letting men and women know that they want them to join a union which they have set up.

"A company union is fundamentally wrong. It is contrary to the provisions of the Recovery Act. It is a shadow without substance. It is no union at all. It is merely an extension of the corporation power to dominate the economic life of the workers.

"I can't understand why see a group of workers going into a hall and forming a company union? Did you ever see a group of men, without a constitution for their company union?

Under Corporation Control

"Read the constitutions of company unions and you will find they were all written by the most highly paid, skilful lawyers in the country. They are handed to those who belong to a company union and who join a company union.

"Is it not enough for a corporation to manage its own affairs, direct its industry? Is that not enough? No, they want not only to control the industry but also the economic life of the workers. It is against this that we protest.

"The company union is fostered by the company. It is financed by the company. It is protected by the company. It is the child of the corporation and not a very legitimate child at that. It is the product of the best thought and mind of skilled attorneys and, of course, no workers are required to pay dues to it because the corporation pays the dues for them.

Never Serves the Workers

"No company union ever served the workers. No automobile workers in Detroit ever expect to receive a redress of their wrongs through the company union?

"One great automobile manufacturer said that twenty thousand of his workers voted to accept his company union. That is a joke. I challenge that company to permit their workers to go away from their plant, off the company's premises, into their own hall and hold a secret election allowing each man and woman to vote in accordance with his conscience for the adoption of a Union they want.

"The company union is a creature of the company's mind. The earnings of the company are made possible through the service of the workers, are used to pay the expenses of the company union. I will prove that.

Missouri Pacific's Scheme

"The Missouri Pacific Railroad had a company union. It was opposed to the bona fide Trade Unions. It went into the hands of a receiver. The company union did not serve it very well. When it went into the hands of the receiver, the Federal Coordinator of Transportation, Mr. Eastman, discovered from an examination of the books that during a certain period of a large number of years the Missouri Pacific had used $500,000 of the earnings of that road to foster, finance and maintain that company union.

"So he properly ruled that that was an illegal expenditure of the railroad's income and that the receiver must stop using any funds of the railroad to perpetuate the company union.

"I have not an idea there, because we think we can prevail upon Congress to amend the Act, to pass a law that would use of funds for any corporation, railroad or otherwise, to finance, maintain and foster company unions.

"I think if there is one way that is more reprehensible than another in opposing the exercise of the right of workers to join a Union it is to threaten them, to deceive them, to trick them, to let them know through their management that they are not wanted in there and the management wants them to join.

"I think it is reprehensible for the management to prevent the workers from exercising the rights under Section 7-a of the National Recovery Act."

Workers Benefited by Code Transfer From AAA to Recovery Administration

Washington.—President Roosevelt's order transferring fair practice codes for manufactured food products from the Agricultural Adjustment Administration to the National Recovery Administration is regarded in labor circles here as being favorable to the workers in these industries.

It was pointed out that although the Agricultural Adjustment Act is primarily concerned with agricultural problems and is administered by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, its jurisdiction included many groups of industrial workers who would normally come under the National Recovery Act administered by the National Recovery Administration.

The problem has led the two administrations held joint hearings on the codes and the labor section, including minimum wage rates, maximum hours and other work conditions were given over to the NRA for action. It is said it was then felt that at the same time the NRA officials were in a certain sense influenced psychologically by the AAA group, which was interested to advance wage rates for men and women in the food manufacturing industries on the ground that the low wages would result in cheaper food products and hence aid the purchasing power of the AAA claimed would bring about larger demand for agricultural products and hence more purchasing for the farmer.

This crude philosophy is not the underlying principle of the NRA and is expressly denied by organized labor and progressive economists generally.

The 1932 convention of the American Federation of Labor took distinct notice of the unfortunate position of the industrial workers whose economic conditions are indirectly affected under the Agricultural Adjustment Act and adopted as its own declaration the report of the Executive Council on the elements of economic injustice involved under the measure.

In its report the Council sharply criticized the administrative procedure of the Act by which the wages, hours and working conditions of the men and women who work for wages on American farms and of the industrial workers who come under the act are determined without effective participation by these two groups of employes.

The Agricultural Adjustment Act which was drafted and enacted to meet the desperate plight of those dependent on the farming industry, delegated authority to the Secretary of Agriculture to administer the act." the Council said. "The purpose of the act is to raise prices of agricultural commodities. The Secretary is given control over agricultural production in the field through every stage of processing together with the marketing.

"This wide, vertical control brings many industrial workers under the A. A. A. administration. No determination has been reached distinguishing the agricultural workers in industry from those allocating the former to the A. A. A. and the latter to the N. R. A.

"Whether all or only some of all those employed by farmers on the farm when they are engaged in growing and preparing for sale the products of the soil and/or livestock; also, all labor used in the first stage of converting agricultural commodities for market in original perishable form be referred to the N. R. A.

"When workers are employed in processing farm products or preparing them for market, beyond the stage customarily performed on the farm, such workers may be brought under agricultural workers.

"Whether such a working arrangement, when industrial workers are employed in an industry coming under the Agricultural Act, would be considered to be equitable to the N. R. A.

"The difficulty with this plan is that distinctively labor issues are decided apart from trade union practices and the established position of the labor in these decisions on wages and hours.

"Whether industrial workers employed in industries in which they are employed and their incomes and working conditions are affected by agricultural policies which are coordinating forces within the industry.

It is hoped in labor circles that the transfer of the manufactured food products from the AAA to the National Recovery Administration will result in the speedy negotiation of codes to which the A. F. of L. Executive Council and the 1933 convention objected.

E. L. Adams, Washington Trades Unionist, Is Dead

Washington.—Emmett L. Adams, for many years an active trades unionist here, died on Monday, Nov. 8, 1933, and was buried on December 14, 1933.

Mr. Adams was a member of lodge 274 of the International Association of Machinists and served as business agent of that local. He was at one time president of District No. 44 of the Machinists and was president of the Washington Central Labor Union during 1905 and 1906, serving three terms.

He went from Washington to Detroit in July, 1926, and when he died was a member of Lodge 694 of Charleston, W. Va. He had been working for the Operating Engineers as an engineer.

N. Y. DEPARTMENT STORES VIOLATE THE RETAIL CODE

New York.—A delegation of the American Booksellers' Association representing more than 1,500 retail book stores in approximately 1,000 communities, urged the New York Retail Code authority to stop department stores and similar establishments from selling books below cost.

The delegation claimed that certain department stores are driving the small booksellers to the wall" by operating book departments as "loss leaders." It was claimed that price cutting was the general practices and that by underselling the small stores department stores obtain a monopoly of the book trade and violate the provision of the retailing code forbidding monopolies.